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the coral reefs and rock pools, localities in which the greater number of the yet unknown fishes of the tropics are likely to be found.

Evermann and Marsh are to be congratulated on the use of the correct name of the island of Puerto Rico, instead of the lazy corruption of Porto Rico. This is, we believe, the first government document of the United States in which the name is correctly spelled. The spelling Puerto Rico is, however, now officially adopted by the Government Board of Geographical Names.

D. S. J.

Tunicates of Pribilof Islands.—Part III of "The Fur Seals and Fur-Seal Islands of the North Pacific Ocean," published by the Government, contains an account by W. E. Ritter of the Tunicates of Pribilof. Eleven species are reported upon, ten of which are new to science.

Physiology of the Cephalopods.—An excellent résumé of our knowledge of the physiology of the cephalopods has been given by Victor Willem in the *Bulletin Scientifique de la France et de la Belgique*, Tome xxxi, pp. 31-54. The article is accompanied by an extensive bibliography.

Excretion in Mollusca.—Cuénot¹ has studied the function of excretion in mollusks by means of physiological injections, and attains results which modify some generally accepted views derived from anatomical and histological data. From the review of the literature on Mollusca one sees that the excretory function has been ascribed primarily to the nephridia (organs of Bojanus), then also to the pericardial glands of lamellibranchs, and finally without sufficient proof to the modified pericardial epithelium and to certain scattered liver cells.

The interior of any animal maintains a relatively constant composition, due to the presence of excretory cells which remove any excess of normal material or any abnormal, *i.e.*, excretory, substance which would poison the organism. The cell exercises, however, the choice among such substances, thus demonstrating the varied nature of the excretory cells. Introduced substances may (1) enter into the cycle of metabolic changes; (2) be attracted and precipitated in skeletal or yolk material; (3) undecomposed and unfixed, be collected by excretory cells, and thus impart color to the excretory organs. Certain

¹ Cuénot, L. L'excrétion chez les Mollusques, *Arch. de Biol.*, vol. xvi (1899), pp. 49-96, Pls. V, VI.